

**Claims**

1. (Currently Amended) A cushioning device adapted for attachment to a shampoo bowl including a front wall having an inner surface and an outer surface, and a U-shaped, neck-receiving notch in the front wall, the cushioning device comprising:

a flexible cushion constructed of a matrix of formed cushioning pockets separated by seams, the flexible cushion including an inner face, an opposing outer face, and opposing enlarged proximal and distal extremities and a narrowed waist therebetween;

the cushioning pockets projecting outwardly from the outer face and the seams located at the outer face;

the waist adapted to overlie a segment of the U-shaped, neck receiving notch, the proximal extremity adapted to overlie a portion of the inner surface of the front wall, and the distal extremity adapted to overlie a portion of the outer surface of the front wall;

first means for detachably securing the proximal extremity of the cushion to the inner surface of the front wall; and

second means for detachably securing the proximal distal extremity of the cushion to the outer surface of the front wall;

wherein the cushioning pockets ~~are adapted to~~ provide a cushioning effect at the outer face of the cushion, and the seams ~~are adapted to~~ provide fluid conducting channels at the outer face of the cushion for conducting water away from the waist of the cushion.

2. (Original) The cushioning device of claim 1, wherein the proximal and distal extremities of the cushion are enlarged relative to the waist and to the U-shaped, neck-receiving notch.

3. (Original) The cushioning device of claim 1, wherein the pockets are filled with air.

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4. (Original) The cushioning device of claim 1,  
wherein the pockets are filled with viscous gel material.

5. (Original) The cushioning device of claim 1,  
wherein the first means comprises at least one suction cup  
attached to the proximal extremity of the flexible cushion  
for providing a suction cup coupling to the inner surface  
of the front wall of the shampoo bowl.

6. (Original) The cushioning device of claim 1,  
wherein the first means comprises:

a hook medium attached to one of the inner  
surface of the front wall of the shampoo bowl and the  
proximal extremity of the flexible cushion; and

a detachably engagable loop medium attached to  
the other one of the inner surface of the front wall  
of the shampoo bowl and the proximal extremity of the  
flexible cushion.

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7. (Original) The cushioning device of claim 1, wherein the second means comprises at least one suction cup attached to the distal extremity of the flexible cushion for providing a suction cup coupling to the outer surface of the front wall of the shampoo bowl.

8. (Original) The cushioning device of claim 1, wherein the second means comprises:

a hook medium attached to one of the outer surface of the front wall of the shampoo bowl and the distal extremity of the flexible cushion; and

a detachably engagable loop medium attached to the other one of the outer surface of the front wall of the shampoo bowl and the distal extremity of the flexible cushion.

9. (Currently Amended) A shampoo bowl assembly  
comprising:

a shampoo bowl including a front wall having an inner surface and an outer surface, and a U-shaped, neck-receiving notch in the front wall;

a flexible cushion constructed of a matrix of formed cushioning pockets separated by seams, the flexible cushion including an inner face, an opposing outer face, and opposing enlarged proximal and distal extremities and a narrowed waist therebetween;

the cushioning pockets projecting outwardly from the outer face and the seams located at the outer face;

the waist overlying a segment of the U-shaped, neck receiving notch, the proximal extremity overlying a portion of the inner surface of the front wall, and the distal extremity overlying a portion of the outer surface of the front wall;

the inner face of the cushion facing the shampoo bowl;

the outer face of the cushion, the cushioning pockets, and the seams directed away from the shampoo bowl;

first means for detachably securing the proximal extremity of the cushion to the inner surface of the front wall; and

second means for detachably securing the proximal distal extremity of the cushion to the outer surface of the front wall;

wherein the cushioning pockets ~~are adapted to~~ provide a cushioning effect at the outer face of the cushion, and the seams ~~are adapted to~~ provide fluid conducting channels at the outer face of the cushion for conducting water away from the waist of the cushion.

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10. (Original) The shampoo bowl assembly of claim 9, wherein the proximal and distal extremities of the cushion are enlarged relative to the waist and to the U-shaped, neck-receiving notch.

11. (Original) The shampoo bowl assembly of claim 9, wherein the pockets are filled with air.

12. (Original) The shampoo bowl assembly of claim 9, wherein the pockets are filled with viscous gel material.

13. (Original) The shampoo bowl assembly of claim 9, wherein the first means comprises at least one suction cup attached to the proximal extremity of the flexible cushion providing a suction cup coupling to the inner surface of the front wall of the shampoo bowl.

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14. (Original) The shampoo bowl assembly of claim 9,  
wherein the first means comprises:

a hook medium attached to one of the inner  
surface of the front wall of the shampoo bowl and the  
proximal extremity of the flexible cushion;

a loop medium attached to the other one of the  
inner surface of the front wall of the shampoo bowl  
and the proximal extremity of the flexible cushion;  
and

the hook medium detachably securing the loop  
medium.

15. (Original) The shampoo bowl assembly of claim 9,  
wherein the second means comprises at least one suction cup  
attached to the distal extremity of the flexible cushion  
providing a suction cup coupling to the outer surface of  
the front wall of the shampoo bowl.



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16. (Original) The shampoo bowl assembly of claim 9,  
wherein the second means comprises:

a hook medium attached to one of the outer  
surface of the front wall of the shampoo bowl and the  
distal extremity of the flexible cushion;

a loop medium attached to the other one of the  
outer surface of the front wall of the shampoo bowl  
and the distal extremity of the flexible cushion; and

the hook medium detachably securing the loop  
medium.

17. (Currently Amended) In a shampoo bowl including a front wall having an inner surface and an outer surface, and a U-shaped, neck-receiving notch in the front wall, a method comprising steps of:

providing a flexible cushion constructed of a matrix of formed cushioning pockets separated by seams, the flexible cushion including an inner face, an opposing outer face, and opposing enlarged proximal and distal extremities and a narrowed waist therebetween;

the cushioning pockets projecting outwardly from the outer face and the seams located at the outer face;

directing the inner face of the cushion toward the shampoo bowl and positioning the waist so as to overlie a segment of the U-shaped, neck receiving notch, positioning the proximal extremity so as to overlie a portion of the inner surface of the front wall, and positioning the distal extremity so as to overlie a portion of the outer surface of the front wall;

the outer face of the cushion, the cushioning pockets, and the seams directed away from the shampoo bowl;

securing the proximal extremity of the cushion to the inner surface of the front wall of the shampoo bowl; and

securing the distal extremity of the cushion to the outer surface of the front wall of the shampoo bowl;

wherein the cushioning pockets and the seams are directed away from the shampoo bowl in which the cushioning pockets provide a cushioning effect at the outer face of the cushion, and the seams provide fluid conducting channels at the outer face of the cushion for conducting water away from the waist of the cushion.

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18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the proximal and distal extremities of the cushion are enlarged relative to the waist and to the U-shaped, neck-receiving notch.

19. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the pockets are filled with air.

20. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the pockets are filled with viscous gel material.